Intro to ACT Aspire
Agenda

- What is the ACT Aspire?
- How can students/parents interpret the ACT Aspire scores?
- How can students work towards improvement and prepare for the grade 11 ACT?
The ACT Suite in High School

- In compliance with 2011 Assembly Bill 40 Act 20 and the 2013-15 biennial state budget, Wisconsin will assess high school students in 9th, 10th and 11th grades beginning in 2014-15.
- 9th and 10th graders will take the ACT Aspire Early High school Assessment.
- 11th grade students will take the ACT Plus Writing and the ACT WorkKeys Assessment.
2014-15 ACT Aspire

• Testing Windows
  • October 6 – 24, 2014 (grade 9 only)
  • April 27 - May 22, 2015 (grades 9 & 10)

• Subject Areas
  • English, Reading, Math, Science, Writing
ACT Aspire
(Test Administration Time)

- English: 40 minutes
- Writing: 30 minutes
- Reading: 60 minutes
- Math: 65 minutes
- Science: 55 minutes

----------------------------------------------

- Total: 4 hours, 10 minutes
## ACT Aspire
(Number and Types of Items)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Selected Response</th>
<th>Technology Enhanced</th>
<th>Constructed Response</th>
<th>Total</th>
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## ACT Aspire Scores
*(Low Scores, High Scores, Benchmarks)*

### ACT Aspire Score Scale by Grade Level

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<th>Subject</th>
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ACT Aspire Scores

- **Benchmark Scores**
  - ACT Aspire benchmarks are aligned with ACT College Readiness Benchmarks
  - Students that meet benchmark are on target for college readiness in 11th grade
  - English, Reading, Math, Science
    - Varies by grade level and subject area
    - Progressively higher at each grade level 3-10
    - Grade 9 & 10 have different benchmarks
  - Writing
    - Benchmark is 428 for all grade levels
# ACT Readiness Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>ACT Readiness Level</th>
<th>ACT Aspire Scale Score Ranges by Grade Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>In Need of Support</td>
<td>400-407</td>
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<td>Close</td>
<td>408-412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>In Need of Support</td>
<td>400-410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>In Need of Support</td>
<td>400-408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>In Need of Support</td>
<td>400-413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Close</td>
<td>414-417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>In Need of Support</td>
<td>408-419</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACT Readiness Levels

• In Need of Support
  • Substantially below the ACT Readiness Benchmark
• Close
  • Below but near the ACT Readiness Benchmark
• Ready
  • Met the ACT Readiness Benchmark
  • On Target for College Readiness in Grade 11
• Exceeding
  • Substantially above the ACT Readiness Benchmark
  • Higher chance to be College and Career Ready
ACT College Readiness Benchmarks

- Represents the level of achievement required for students to have a **50% chance of obtaining a B or higher** on first-year college courses
- Represents the level of achievement required for students to have a **75% chance of obtaining a C or higher** on first-year college courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT Subject</th>
<th>ACT Benchmark</th>
<th>College Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>English Composition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>College Algebra</td>
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<td>Reading</td>
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<td>Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Biology</td>
</tr>
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</table>
ACT Predicted Scores

ACT Aspire provides ACT predicted scores for each subject area and Composite (grades 9 & 10 only)

- Predicted score ranges will be refined each year as more data is collected

Source: http://act.org/migrate/predictedscores.html
# ACT Aspire Subject Skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conventions of Standard English</td>
<td>Algebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of Language</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production of Writing</td>
<td>Functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td>Grade Level Progress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craft and Structure</td>
<td>Justification and Explanation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration of Knowledge and Ideas</td>
<td>Modeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Ideas and Details</td>
<td>Number and Quantity</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Statistics and Probability</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and Support</td>
<td>Evaluation of Modes, Inferences and Experimental Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideas and Analysis</td>
<td>Interpretation of Data</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language Use and Conventions</td>
<td>Scientific Investigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
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</table>
ACT Aspire
Current Progress Report

• Pages 1-3 provide results by five content areas
  • English, Reading, Math, Science, Writing
• Subjects are reported out by scale score
• Highest subject scale score is reported first on page 1
• Lowest subject scale score is reported last on page 3
• A copy of each student report was provided to each building for instructional distribution.
College and Career Readiness: Current and Predicted Path (English Example)

ACT Readiness Levels
- Ready – green shaded area
- Close – area between green benchmark line and dotted line
- In need of Support – below dotted line

Subject
ACT Readiness Level
Scale Score
ACT Readiness Benchmark: green line

Predicted ACT score in Subject
Student scale score - orange dot
Predicted path of one year growth: orange shading

National Average: gray dot, score reported below axis

Scale Score
ACT Readiness
Level

Collected ACT Readiness
Benchmark:
428: National Average

Subject

PREDICTED
ACT SCORE
21 - 26

435
450
456

Ready

420
430
440
450
460

College and Career Readiness: Current and Predicted Path
Percentage of Points Achievement in Subject Skills

English Example

Skills Performance:
(orange bar)
Dark orange – within ACT Readiness Range
Light orange – below ACT Readiness Range

Subject skills are sorted from highest to lowest scores

Percentage of points received in subject skill

Number of points received out of total points

ACT Readiness Range where student who has met the ACT Readiness Benchmark would fall (green bar)

Improvement Idea – provided for the skill with the lowest score.
• If student scored within the Act Readiness Range, an enrichment idea is given.
• If the student scored below the ACT Readiness Range, an improvement idea is given.
Supplemental Scores Report

- Located on page 4 with green header
- Includes the following reports
  - National Percentile Rank
  - English Language Arts
  - Progress with Text Complexity
  - STEM
  - Progress towards Career Readiness
Supplemental Scores Report
National Percentile Rank

Subjects are scored by highest to lowest National Percentile Rank

Rank is based on students tested in grade 9 (bell-shaped curve)

If student did not test in a subject, it will read “Not Tested”
Supplemental Scores Report

English Language Arts

- Average of English, Reading and Writing Scale Score
- ACT Readiness Range (green bar) represents typical performance of students who meet the ACT Readiness Benchmarks in English, Reading and Writing
- 431 falls within ACT Readiness Range (dark orange)
- ELA ACT Readiness Range: Below Range=403 to 425
  Within Range (Ready)=426 to 449
Supplemental Scores Report
Progress with Text Complexity

- Based on Reading Test (no score provided)
- Indication of how well student is able to demonstrate understanding of the net meaning and purposes of increasingly complex texts
- Ratings: Sufficient Progress or Insufficient Progress
- Message is slightly different depending on rating
- Recommended books are provided
Supplemental Scores Report: STEM

- Average of Math and Science Scale Score
- ACT Readiness Range (green bar) represents typical performance of students who meet the ACT Benchmarks in Science and Math
- 424 falls below ACT Readiness Range (light orange)
- STEM ACT Readiness Range: Below Range=400 to 428  
  Within Range (Ready)=429 to 455
- Includes message to take advanced coursework in Science and Math to prepare for STEM career opportunities
Supplemental Scores Report
Progress Toward Career Readiness

- Reported for students who receive scores on English, Reading, Math and Science Tests
- Provides predicted performance on National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)
- Ratings (Grade 9):
  - Insufficient progress: 400 to 411
  - Progress toward Bronze: 412 to 415
  - Progress toward Silver: 416 to 423
  - Progress toward Gold: 424 to 452
ACT National Career Readiness Certificate

An industry-recognized, portable, research-based credential that certifies essential skills needed for workplace success.
Relates to problem solving, critical thinking, analyzing, and applying information.
High Schools

- High Schools use ACT Aspire/ACT results in:
  - Academic advising and counseling
  - Evaluating the effectiveness of instruction
  - Identifying students who need assistance with certain subject areas or academic skills
  - Planning changes and improvements in the curriculum
Colleges/Universities

- Colleges/Universities use ACT results in:
  - Admissions
  - Course Placement
  - Academic Advising
  - Scholarships and Loans
Things to Know About College Admission Tests

- Most four-year colleges and universities use test scores in their admission decisions
- Test scores are not the most important factor
- Colleges may use scores to award scholarships
- Some two-year colleges only recommend scores
How to Improve ACT Scores

Before the Test

● Reading and Writing are Key
● Build vocabulary, refresh grammar
● Study guides
● Focus in improving weakest areas
● Take practice tests
● Plenty of sleep/good breakfast
Things to do During the ACT

- Underline and summarize
- Memorize formulas
- Don’t be careless/focus on content
- Don’t be clueless/practice and drill
- Don’t crunch/pace the time and questions
Other ACT Resources

Online Practice Tests

Free
● https://www[number2.com

Paid Service
● http://www.actstudent.org/onlineprep/
● https://grockit.com/act/info
● http://www.eprep.com/

Test-optional schools
● FairTest: The National Center for Fair and Open Testing
  • http://fairtest.org/university/optional